

Message

From: LEE, LILY [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D6085A744F9347E6836C54C0E85B97B2-LLEE06]
Sent: 10/4/2018 5:21:42 PM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad [Calvino.Maria@epa.gov]
CC: Fairbanks, Brianna [Fairbanks.Brianna@epa.gov]; Lane, Jackie [Lane.Jackie@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: legal review RE: One more question FW: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

I'm working tomorrow on language with more context, but I just lost WiFi at the site trailer. I will try again

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 4, 2018, at 10:02 AM, Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Here's a draft response for legal review:

Hunters Point Naval Shipyard is a Superfund site. However, Parcel A was removed from the Superfund National Priorities List in 1999 and was transferred to the City of San Francisco for development in 2004.

Soledad Calvino
Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9
calvino.maria@epa.gov
Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Calvino, Maria Soledad
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 8:26 AM
To: LEE, LILY <LEE.LILY@EPA.GOV>; Fairbanks, Brianna <fairbanks.brianna@epa.gov>
Cc: Lane, Jackie <Lane.Jackie@epa.gov>; Yogi, David <Yogi.David@epa.gov>
Subject: One more question FW: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Hi Lily and Brianna,
See additional question highlighted below. Hoping we can get back to her today.
Thank you,

Soledad Calvino
Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9
calvino.maria@epa.gov
Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rachel Becker [<mailto:rachel.becker@theverge.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 8:08 AM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Okay, one very last question: Is the shipyard STILL a superfund site?

On Wed, Oct 3, 2018 at 7:13 PM Rachel Becker <rachel.becker@theverge.com> wrote:

Thank you so much!

On Wed, Oct 3, 2018 at 7:01 PM Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel,
Please see our responses below.

Q1. I understand that the EPA told the Navy in 2017 that 90 percent of the work TetraTech did in Parcel B was suspect, and 97 percent in Parcel G was not reliable, as well. Is my interpretation of those numbers, from this letter correct?

https://www.peer.org/assets/docs/epa/4_9_18_EPA_comment_summary.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=71b47782-14d8-4693-82ec-e9c827dd7ce4

Response: EPA, DTSC, and CDPH found signs of potential falsification, data manipulation, and/or data quality concerns that call into question the reliability of soil data in 90% of the total suspect soil survey units in parcel B and 97% of suspect survey units in Parcel G. Please see this link to EPA's findings from our independent review of Parcels B and G soil testing data: <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100006302.pdf>

Q2. Is that the latest assessment? Have those numbers been updated? For example, have other parcels been assessed by the EPA?

Response: Here is a link to EPA's evaluation of soil testing data from Tetra Tech EC Inc. in Parcels D-2, UC-1, UC-2, and UC-3:
<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100006302.pdf>

Q3. CDPH says that EPA conducted "conducted a radiological survey of Parcel A in 2002." (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RHB/Environment/Final%20Hunters%20Point%20-%20Parcel%20A1%20-%20Summary.pdf>). Can you tell me more about that survey? How was it conducted, and what were the results? Why, then, are folks asking for Parcel A to be checked again — and how did the scan miss material like that radium-painted dock marker reportedly found at parcel A? (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Radioactive-object-found-near-homes-at-Hunters-13228476.php>)

Response: In 2002, EPA conducted a radiological scanner van survey of Parcel A and navigable roads on other parts of the shipyard. All of the anomalies detected during the scan were attributable to natural occurring sources at levels consistent with what would normally be found in the environment. The radiological scanner van survey gave information related to certain types of potential radiological exposures closer to the surface; it did not address all types of radiation potentially present or deeper locations of contamination. The scanner van survey is also subject to other limitations listed in the attached report, e.g. only limited locations were accessible, asphalt would have shielded some gamma radiation, etc.

The deck marker was found at the bottom of a hillside, in an unpaved area not accessible to a vehicle, near the boundary of Parcel A. This area had not been previously scanned by EPA. In addition, after the Navy transferred Parcel A to the City/County of San Francisco, considerable earthmoving changed the surface of the property. The areas that EPA originally scanned are no longer the surfaces where current residents live.

Q4. Why are the EPA's numbers re: unreliable work so much larger than the Navy's? Is the shipyard safe for the community living in Parcel A, or the rest of the Bayview Hunters Point community living next door?

Response: In regards to the discrepancy in the percentages, EPA's assessment of the data included looking more closely for signs of potential data quality problems in addition to signs of potential falsification. For example, EPA recommended resampling when data were missing or when different data collection methods did not produce consistent results.

Based on the work done and history of the site, we do not believe anyone living or working at Hunters Point faces any health risk. For the entire site, over the past decades, EPA and the state have been monitoring radiological conditions on an ongoing basis to ensure the safety of the surrounding community. For example, we have been reviewing radiological data collected by a variety of contractors from air monitors (both upwind and downwind), groundwater samples, and fence line scans. Environmental regulators have also done independent radiological testing in some locations, such as hand scans, collecting swipe samples, and analyzing duplicate soil samples in independent laboratories.

On Parcel A, the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has almost completed new gamma scans in the location where current residents live and has thus far not found harmful levels of radiation that could expose residents. CDPH did find one Navy ship's deck marker. Due to its location and level of radiation, the object was not causing harm to residents or workers.

The concerns we have about Tetra Tech EC Inc. would not impact the health of current residents in Parcel A or the surrounding community. The areas under question are enclosed under protective covers or inside locked buildings in secured parts of the site. We believe that these measures, routine monitoring described above, and other protections, including dust controls, are protecting the community as our investigation and clean-up activities proceed.

Q5. What are the EPA's concerns about the Navy's plans to retest the site, and is the EPA satisfied the Navy is addressing those concerns?

Response: Here are links to EPA's comments on Navy drafts of Work Plans to retest the site on March 26, 2018, (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100009179.pdf>) and August 14, 2018, (<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/09/100009276.pdf>). The Navy expects to release a revised Work Plan for Parcel G in October 2018. EPA will review that draft to evaluate the Navy's responses to our comments.

Thank you,

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Calvino, Maria Soledad

Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2018 5:14 PM

To: 'Rachel Becker' <rachel.becker@theverge.com>

Subject: RE: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Hi Rachel,

You can find all the site documents (including letters) at www.epa.gov/superfund/hunterspoint. I am still trying to get the answers to your questions today. I'll get back in touch shortly.

Thank you for your patience,

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rachel Becker [<mailto:rachel.becker@theverge.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2018 4:43 PM

To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Hello! Just following up.

At the very least, can you confirm these letters are real letters from the EPA? https://www.peer.org/assets/docs/epa/4_9_18_EPA_comment_summary.pdf?eType=EmailBlas&tContent&eld=71b47782-14d8-4693-82ec-e9c827dd7ce4

https://www.peer.org/assets/docs/ca/6_4_18_EPA_reevaluation_D_UC.pdf

Thank you,

Rachel

On Mon, Oct 1, 2018 at 11:43 AM Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel,

I'll relay those additional questions to our folks. We are still working on getting those answers for you by your Oct. 3 deadline.

Thank you,

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rachel Becker [mailto:rachel.becker@theverge.com]

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 10:56 AM

To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Oh, and one more — what are the EPA's concerns about the Navy's plans to retest the site, and is the EPA satisfied the Navy is addressing those concerns?

On Mon, Oct 1, 2018 at 10:53 AM Rachel Becker <rachel.becker@theverge.com> wrote:

Hi! Just following up. Any answers? I have a few more questions, as well: Why are the EPA's numbers re: unreliable work so much larger than the Navy's? Is the shipyard safe for the community living in Parcel A, or the rest of the Bayview Hunters Point community living next door?

Thank you,

Rachel

On Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 7:08 AM Rachel Becker <rachel.becker@theverge.com> wrote:

Yes, thank you!

On Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 10:16 PM Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel,

We are still working on getting those questions answered for you. I'll forward this new set of questions to our folks. Does the October 3 deadline apply to this new inquiry as well?

Thank you,

Soledad

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2018, at 8:24 PM, Rachel Becker <rachel.becker@theverge.com> wrote:

Hi! Just checking on those questions. Also, I have another one for you: CDPH says that EPA conducted "conducted a radiological survey of Parcel A in 2002."
(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DRSEM/CDPH%20Document%20Library/RHB/Environment/Final%20Hunters%20Point%20-%20Parcel%20A1%20-%20Summary.pdf>)

Can you tell me more about that survey? How was it conducted, and what were the results? Why, then, are folks asking for Parcel A to be checked again — and how did the scan miss material like that radium-painted dock marker reportedly found at parcel A? (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Radioactive-object-found-near-homes-at-Hunters-13228476.php>)

Thank you!

Rachel

On Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 11:23 AM Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Sounds good. Thank you,

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rachel Becker [<mailto:rachel.becker@theverge.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 11:16 AM

To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

My deadline is October 3rd. Thanks so much! I'll be sure to send any more questions I have your way in the meantime.

On Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 11:14 AM Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Rachel,

Thank you for reaching out. I will find out and get back to you on this. What is your deadline?

The Navy is the lead agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the site, but feel free to send me any questions you have regarding the cleanup and the current situation at Hunters Point and I can confirm which agency should respond.

Thank you,

Soledad Calvino

Press Officer | Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 9

calvino.maria@epa.gov

Office 415.972.3512 | Mobile 415.697.6289

From: Rachel Becker [mailto:rachel.becker@theverge.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 10:45 AM

To: Calvino, Maria Soledad <Calvino.Maria@epa.gov>

Subject: Press inquiry from The Verge: TetraTech and Hunters Point

Hello! I'm a science reporter at The Verge, and I'm working on a video about the cleanup of Hunters Point. I understand that the EPA told the Navy in 2017 that 90 percent of the work TetraTech did in Parcel B was suspect, and 97 percent in Parcel G was not reliable, as well. Is my interpretation of those numbers, from this letter, correct? https://www.peer.org/assets/docs/epa/4_9_18_EPA_comment_summary.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=71b47782-14d8-4693-82ec-e9c827dd7ce4

And is that the latest assessment? Have those numbers been updated? For example, have other parcels been assessed by the EPA? Also, is there anyone I could talk to by Wednesday of next week (October 3rd) about the cleanup and the current situation at Hunters Point?

Thank you,

Rachel Becker

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*

Tel: 650 485 1493

@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.

--

Science Journalist, *The Verge*
Tel: 650 485 1493
@RA_Becks

The Verge, founded in 2011, covers technology, science and art.